The Conversion of Jagai and Madhai #10

Scene One - Jagai and Madhai's Neighborhood

(Actors are already on stage. The drunken brothers are harassing a merchant.)

Merchant: But But, I am just a simple man; I have never harmed you or anyone! Why do you always persecute me!?

Jagai: Because I am Jagai!!

Madhai: And I am Madhai!!

Jagai: And we do what we like! We are rich and powerful!

Madhai: We take what we like, whenever we want, and no one can stop us!!

Merchant: (softly) Except the Supreme Lord!

Jagai: What? What is it that you are mumbling about? Someone tougher than me?!

Merchant: The Supreme Lord, Sri Krsna, is very merciful to all living entities. His Holy Name is so sweet that

Madhai: Enough! You are just trying to squirm out of paying the taxes you owe us!
(A Sankirtan party approaches, Lord Nityananda dances joyfully in the front.)

Jagai: Others, like you, have tried, but somehow they have all been involved in some horrible accidents.

Madhai: You have one week to pay or we shall have to visit your shop. Do you understand?

Merchant: Yes, yes, I understand!
(Merchant bows from the waist and exits.)

Madhai: Hey, Jagai, come have a look at what's coming that procession of singing and dancing. I don't like it; it's

weird.

Jagai: Oh, don't worry about them. They're just some crazy Vaisnavas on a recruitment drive. Do you remember that mantra our father used to chant? Well, that's what they're chanting!

Madhai: Sentimentalists! Just look at the fools! And look at their Leader!!

Haridas: You see, I told you that we were proceeding too far into the bad part of town. There's no one here that we can preach to, Nityananda Prabhu. Let's turn around and hurry back to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's ashram. He will be expecting us to return about now.

Nityananda: Haridasa, my friend, just see for yourself the mercy of the Supreme Lord! There are two fallen souls who are about to receive the mercy of the Holy Name. Let's ask them to chant with us!

Haridas: Be careful, my dear Nityananda! Those are two of the most dangerous criminals in Navadvip - Jagai and his elder brother, Madhai. They are well known for their violence and their hatred of the Vaisnavas. They were born in a good family of Vaisnavas but they have long surrendered to the depravaties of strong drink!

Nityananda: That may be, but Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's order is that we request everyone we meet to chant the Holy Name and be happy!

(They go closer to Jagai and Madhai.)

Jagai: I don't believe it! They're coming even closer!

Nityananda: My brothers, just chant the Holy Names and be happy! Join us! Chant! Dance!

Jagai: You must be mad! We will never partake of your crazy ways!

Madhai: Fools! Do you know who we are!?

Nityananda: We do indeed know you, Brothers. But do you know who

you are? For self-realization, the easy and sublime method for this age is to chant the Holy Name constantly. Please leave aside your sinful ways and join us. Dance and chant and your lives will be sublime!

Jagai: Enough of this! Take your religion elsewhere! We don't need this Hare Hare stuff!

Madhai: Yeah, we're happy when we have plenty to drink!

Jagai: Go! Get out of here! Go now go!
(They two brothers chase Nityananda Prabhu and the chanting party away.)
And don't come back! If you come back, you will feel the wrath of Jagai and Madhai!!

Scene Two - The Ashram of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu

(Kirtan party is heard offstage.)

Caitanya: Glory to the Sri Krsna Sankirtan, which cleanses the heart of all the dust accumulated for years and extinguishes the fire of conditional life, of repeated birth and death.

This Sankirtan Movement is the prime benediction for humanity at large because it spreads the rays of the benediction moon. It is the life of all transcendental knowledge. It increases the ocean of transcendental bliss and it enables us to fully taste the nectar for which we are always anxious.

O My Lord, Your holy name alone can render all benediction to living beings, and thus You have hundreds and millions of names like Krsna and Govinda. In these transcendental names You have invested all Your transcendental energies. There are not even hard and fast rules for chanting these names. O My Lord, out of kindness You enable us to easily approach You by Your Holy Names, but I am so unfortunate that I have no attraction for Them.

One should chant the Holy Names of the Lord in a humble state

of mind, thinking oneself lower than the straw in the street; one should be more tolerant than a tree, devoid of all sense of false prestige and should be ready to offer all respects to others. In such a state of mind one can chant the Holy Names of the Lord constantly.

O almighty Lord, I have no desire to accumulate wealth, nor do I desire beautiful women. Nor do I want any number of followers. I only want Your causeless devotional service, birth after birth.

O son of Maharaj Nanda (Krsna), I am Your eternal servitor, yet somehow or other I have fallen into the ocean of birth and death. Please pick me up from this ocean of death and place Me as one of the atoms at Your lotus feet.

O My Lord, when will my eyes be decorated with tears of love flowing constantly when I chant Your Holy Names? When will My voice choke up, and when will the hairs of My body stand on end at the recitation of Your Name?

O Govinda! Feeling Your separation, I am considering a moment to be like twelve years or more. Tears are flowing from My eyes like torrents of rain and I am feeling all vacant in the world in Your absence.

I know no one but Krsna as My Lord, and He shall remain so even if He handles Me roughly by His embrace or makes Me brokenhearted by not being present before Me. He is completely free to do anything and everything, for He is always My worshipful Lord, unconditionally.

(Kirtan party enters.)

Ah, here comes my two chief preachers, Haridasa Thakura and Nityananda Prabhu! Kindly tell me all about your preaching activities today!

Nityananda: O Gauranga, by Your mercy, many fallen souls were delivered and have accepted Lord Krsna as their life and soul! However, there were two brothers who we could not save.

Haridasa: My Lord, they chased us! Indeed, they would not even listen to what we had to say, but abused us with vile language and tried to attack us! I had to grab Nityananda

Prabhu and hurry Him away. We escaped by the mercy of Lord Krsna!

Caitanya: Who are these two villains?!

Nityananda: Their names are Jagai and Madhai. Although they are employed by the government to collect taxes, they simply terrorize and plunder the innocent citizens!

1st Devotee: These two tyrants are a law unto themselves! Leading a band of many brigands, they roam about the village and pillage good people!

2nd Devotee: Nobody dares defy them, for they have already murdered over a hundred people!

Caitanya: Such unfortunate rascals! They do not realize how much they will have to suffer in the future for their abominable activities! If only there was some way in which they could be delivered!

2nd Devotee: Surely, we should try to avoid trouble and not agitate them any further! I have heard that they are camped in this quarter of the town - who knows, they may even come here and cause trouble, for they are notorious as devil worshippers and despise all devotees of the Lord!

Haridas: This is true. But, on the other hand, it is the desire of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu that even the most fallen soul be delivered. We must not be deterred, for surely Krsna will protect us!

Nityananda: Yes, Haridas is right! By risking one's life in the service of the Lord, one is sure to attain the mercy of Krsna, Let us go back there and try again to save them!

1st Devotee: But, how are you going to do it? If you approach then in the same way they may simply become more violent towards you!

Caitanya: My dear friends, this evil age of Kali is an ocean of darkness. But, there is one ray of Light and that is the

Holy Name of the Lord, which has descended directly from the spiritual world. Whatever a person's material condition may be, he can be delivered only by the sublime process of chanting the Holy Names of Lord Hari! Therefore, tomorrow you must form a very large Sankirtan party and go directly to the camp of Jagai and Madhai. With humbleness and compassion, ask them to join you and bring them back here to our camp for training.

All: Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu ki Jaya!

Scene Three - In Jagai and Madhai's Neighborhood

(Village women are sweeping as the Merchant passes.)

1st Woman: Did you see that poor merchant?

2nd Woman: He is not as poor as you think. But, did you know that he has come into some sort of trouble, lately?

1st Woman: Trouble? But, he is a Vaisnava! What trouble could be so great?

2nd Woman: The local tax collectors, Jagai and Madhai, have chosen him for their attentions. They will make him an example to all others.

1st Woman: Poor man!

2nd Woman: Can anyone stop those rogues!?

1st Woman: Not the government. They are killers, too! If his faith is strong, then Lord Krsna will protect him for Krsna is bound by His devotees' love.

2nd Woman: You're right, but I hope Krsna doesn't wait too long. Something very amazing will have to happen to make Jagai and Madhai give up their sinful ways!

2nd Woman: Well, I hope it happens soon for all of our sakes. We could be Jagai and Madhai's next "example" of their tyranny!

(The kirtan party enters, singing sweetly. Jagai and Madhai go to

the merchant's shop, mess up the front display and begin tossing a valuable piece back and forth.)

Merchant: Stop that! Stop that, please!

Madhai: Ah, but you have not paid the taxes as we asked! So, why should we do what you ask?

Jagai: Just consider the law of karma, dear merchant. In some previous life, you must have been a thief or cheater and we were reincarnated here to purify your existence!
(Jagai and Madhai laugh. Jagai begins tossing more merchandise up and down, letting it drop on purpose, then mockingly shrugging his shoulders.)

Jagai: Ooopsy! Accidents will happen, won't they?

Madhai: (Bothered by kirtan) What in the name of hell is going on here!?

Jagai: It's those Vaisnava singers again! They've got some nerve to come around with their wailing!

Nityananda: Jagai! Madhai!

Jagai: What!? Are You calling us? What do You want!?

Madhai: Oh, it's those Two again!

Nityananda: We have come to request you to chant the Holy Name, for by doing so all your sins will be nullified and your lives will be sublime!!

Madhai: We have heard that before and we have no faith in it. I will teach you that you cannot disturb Jagai and Madhai while they work!

Nityananda: You can Experience love of Krsna yourself by chanting the Hare Krsna Maha Mantra!
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Madhai: I warned you not to make me mad!

(Madhai throws a piece of earthen pot at Lord Nityananda, hitting Him in the forehead. Haridas Thakur supports Nityananda Prabhu.)

Nityananda: It does not matter that you have done this. I still implore you, please come and chant with us!

Madhai: You never learn, do you?
(He picks up another piece of pot and moves toward Lord Nityananda menacingly.)

Jagai: No, Madhai! What are you doing?

Madhai: I'm going to throw another one

Jagai: No, Madhai! Can't you see how humble Nityananda Prabhu is! This guy's for real, Madhai! He's pure! He's not a cheater! We should respect this kind of Vaisnava
(Lord Caitanya enters quickly. He is angry and wields His Sudarshon Cakra weapon.)

Caitanya: How dare you hurt Lord Nityananda! I can tolerate any offense to Myself but I cannot tolerate an offense to My devotee!!
(Jagai and Madhai cower and grovel fearfully.)

Jagai: We're sorry! Please don't kill us!!

Madhai: We won't do it again! We'll chant all the time!! We already know all the words!

Nityananda: (restraining Lord Caitanya) Wait, My Lord!! Your mission is not to kill but to deliver such rascals as these two! If You kill these two, You may as well kill everybody, for in this age, practically all the people are just as fallen as these two! Please, show them Your mercy; I beg You!!

Caitanya: Very well, I will spare you, but on one condition only - you must solemnly promise that,from this very moment, you will abandon all your sinful ways and take up the chanting of the Holy Names as your only shelter.

Jagai: My dear Lord, You are the Most Merciful Person and

Therefore, we will do whatever You ask of us!

Madhai: I am the most abominable of all men and do not deserve to be delivered! But, still I beg that You will permit me to be Your lowest of servants!!

Caitanya: You need not fear any longer; although you were the most fallen, by the mercy of Nitai, you have become the most fortunate.
(Lord Caitanya raises them to their feet and presents them to the kirtan party.) All Vaisnavas may rejoice this day, for on this day Jagai and Madhai have returned to our association! (Devotees cheer.)

Nityananda: My dear Gauranga, You are so kind to the people of this dark age, for You are freely giving the highest benediction - pure loving service to Krsna to anyone who simply takes shelter of Your Lotus Feet.

Caitanya: Everyone chant Hare Krsna!

Devotee: Sri Nityananda Prabhu ki jaya!!
Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu ki jaya!!
(Kirtan)